Dairy Milking Supervisor

Dairy farming

Job title	Dairy Milking Supervisor
Department	Dairy farming
Reports to	Farm Manager
Direct reports	Milkers and parlour assistants
Location	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*
Contract type	*[Permanent / fixed-term / other]*
Salary and benefits	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*

Job purpose

The Milking Supervisor runs the parlour day to day, making sure every milking is clean, calm, on time and produces high-quality milk. The role leads the milking team, protects udder health, looks after parlour and cooling equipment, and keeps clear records for management.

Key responsibilities

Milking routine

- Plan and run each milking to the set timetable, usually two or three times a day
- Make sure every milker follows the agreed routine of pre-dip, fore-strip, wipe, attach and post-dip
- Keep cow flow and parlour throughput steady and remove bottlenecks
- Divert milk from treated or high cell count cows so it never reaches the bulk tank
- Hand over clearly between shifts

Hygiene and milk quality

- Set and enforce hygiene standards for staff, the parlour, equipment and the dairy
- Check that plant wash routines run correctly after every milking
- Monitor teat condition and udder cleanliness before and after milking
- Track bulk milk results for cell count, bacteria and residues and act on any rise
- Keep the parlour ready for milk buyer and farm assurance inspections

Cow health and welfare

- Watch for mastitis, lameness and stress during milking and report cases at once
- Carry out California Mastitis Test (CMT) checks when needed
- Mark and record treated cows clearly in the parlour
- Insist on quiet, patient handling with no rough treatment of cows

Team leadership

- Train new milkers and refresh the skills of the existing team
- Draw up milking rotas and allocate parlour duties

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- Monitor performance and deal with conduct issues fairly
- Enforce safety and biosecurity rules in and around the parlour

Equipment, supplies and records

- Check milking machines, vacuum, pulsation and milk cooling every day
- Report faults quickly and arrange routine servicing
- See that clusters, hoses and tools are used, cleaned and stored correctly
- Keep stocks of teat dips, gloves, liners, filters and cleaning chemicals topped up
- Record daily yields, cow problems, treatments, cleaning and maintenance and report them to management

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Several years' milking experience on a commercial dairy, including time as a supervisor
- Proven record of running a milking team and parlour routine
- Good knowledge of mastitis prevention, milk hygiene and milk quality testing
- Experience with modern parlours, such as herringbone, rotary or parallel systems
- Understanding of the milk hygiene regulations that apply in the country of work

Desirable

- Diploma or degree in animal science, dairy technology or a related subject
- Formal training in milking technique, mastitis control or milk hygiene
- HACCP or milk quality assurance certificate
- Experience of robotic milking or parlour automation
- Experience on a large, well-managed dairy unit

Skills and attributes

- Leadership and team management
- High standards of hygiene and attention to detail
- Calm, skilled cow handling
- Basic mechanical understanding and fault-finding
- Accurate record keeping and reporting
- Clear communication
- Good time management and sound decisions under pressure

Measures of success

- Bulk milk cell count and bacteria within buyer targets
- New clinical mastitis cases per month
- No antibiotic residue failures
- Milkings started and finished on schedule
- Parlour throughput in cows per hour
- Rota fully covered by trained staff

Working conditions and safety

Shift work in the parlour, including early mornings, evenings, weekends and public holidays on a rota. Waterproof PPE, gloves and boots are worn, and the supervisor covers for absent milkers when needed.

- Follow health and safety rules and safe systems of work, and wear the correct PPE
- Follow animal welfare, biosecurity and medicine-use procedures at all times

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- Report hazards, accidents, near misses and concerns promptly

This job description outlines the main duties of the role. It is not a complete list, and the employer may update it as the business changes, in consultation with the jobholder.

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